



The

GARZETTE

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August, 1995

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

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The PRESIDENTS PEN

by Howard Gould, W4NVF

Welcome all you new members to GARS and I hope that your first newsletter provides you with some good information about ourselves and what we as a club like to do. If any of you have any input to give us, speak up at our next meeting and be recognized. We will most certainly give you a chance to discuss what is on your mind.

Well, folks - another July with record heat. But it did not stop our great GARS/Alford picnic. This was the first joint club picnic to ever happen. And what was the average comment made? *It was great fun and the food was outstanding.*

The food was prepared by Marty, KE4MLH; Lewis, KE4QOV; Jennie, KE4QNE and Marty's XYL, Lynn. There were other contributors to this fine picnic, and we want to thank you all for putting together a fun day for all. It was estimated that 200 came to the affair - making this one of the largest get togethers between clubs in the Atlanta area. There was great swimming and boating in the lake, horseshoes, and two foxhunts let some members try out their skills.

Before the picnic we had a big ham-fest to run and what a job GARS did. It was another 100% effort, given by all our GARS volunteers, who made this ham-
(Prez, continued on p.3)

"Ray-Two"

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

Being relatively young compared to many of my Elmers and on-the-air friends, has caused me some unexpected sorrow. I am not used to losing friends to Father Time, but twice in my rather short amateur "career" this has already happened. The sorrow comes not just from losing a friend, but also from seeing how silently we can pass, with hardly a notice from the amateur world.

Oh, sure... some famous "big shot" hams get a few paragraphs in a national magazine... but what about those regular guys? Have you looked at the length of the list of Silent Keys in QST lately? And these are only the hams whose loved ones knew to place their names there. Many more are not listed.

"Ray Two" is a perfect example.

I had been licensed for HF for a couple years, and had found a niche in a late night roundtable on 40 meters. From midnight on, we talked about everything.

(Ray, continued on p.3)

Eddie Faust, WD4JEM GARS

HAM of the MONTH

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Eddie is originally from Murphy N.C. He grew up here and went all the way through high school in Murphy.

Eddie's father, Jim, was (and still is) a ham - K4AIH. His dad has been involved in the engineering side of local market broadcast and was chief engineer at the time. As a result of this influence and a friend that was interested in radio, Eddie got his license when he was 13 years old. His original call was the same as it is today, WD4JEM.

Working at the AM broadcast station with his father immersed Eddie even more in radio. He did a little bit of everything at the station including cleaning the transmitter, setting for remote broadcasts and even doing some announcing.

Other interests that Eddie had as he was growing up included most outdoor activities and he was heavy into backpacking. (the Appalachian Trail is not far from here).

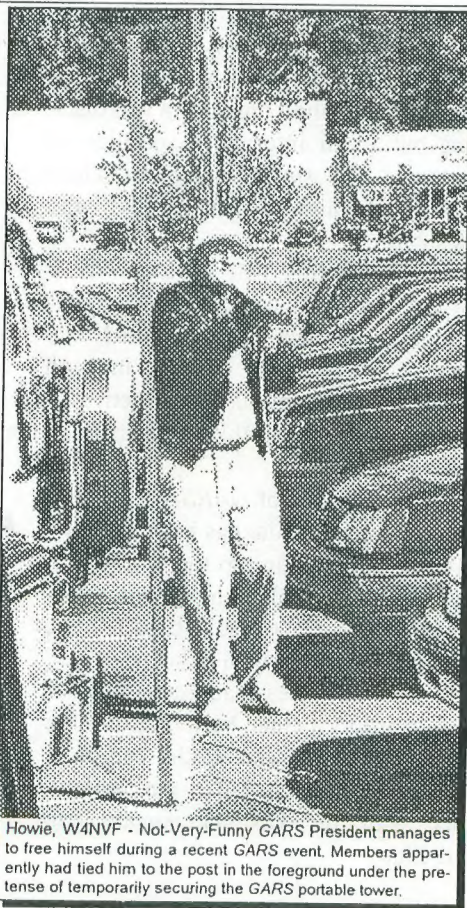
Eddie's first rig was comprised of a Hammarlund HQ-150 receiver and a homebrew 80 meter CW transmitter. He couldn't remember the tube in the final but he did remember that it had 2 plate caps.

The tank circuit was hand wound with a coil on a wooden stick that was moved in and out of a larger coil which provided link coupling to the antenna. (and you thought a PI network was the only way to transfer RF to an antenna). His antenna was a multi-band dipole.

At this time, Eddie's dad was using a Heath SB-101 that had been built by another high school student, WA4BPP, who is now a cardiologist in Florida.

In the early to mid 70's, Eddie and his dad had either the 1st or 2nd vhf rig in the western part of N.C. Eddie and his

(Ham, continued on p.2)



Howie, W4NVF - Not-Very-Funny GARS President manages to free himself during a recent GARS event. Members apparently had tied him to the post in the foreground under the pretense of temporarily securing the GARS portable tower.

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, submit items in ASCII format by posting a private message to Dean Matthews on the **GARS** conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (806-7372), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Art can be accepted in TIFF or PCX format on IBM formatted disk.

Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

GARZETTE EDITOR

Dean Matthews, AD4OD

Editors Desk: 962-8941 Fax: 339-1394

E-Mail: AD4OD@aol.com

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The tedious and time consuming job of maintaining *The GARZETTE* mailing list is performed monthly by Membership Chairman Jack Herndon, KS4LS. Joe Biddle, AD4PZ assists with collating, stapling and mailing, and digitally scans in the photo and artwork seen regularly in *The GARZETTE*. Our thanks to them for all their help in producing *The GARZETTE*.

The **GARS** address is:

GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 88
LILBURN, GA 30226

In keeping with the amateur spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur club newsletters provided proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*. ♦

JOIN GARS

Membership dues for 1995-1996 are:
\$25.00 for Individual Memberships
\$35.00 for Family Memberships
Half price for seniors and students.
Dues reduced for mid-year additions, see membership application for details, or...
Call Jack Herndon, KS4LS at 995-0438 for more information about joining **GARS**.

(Ham, continued on p.2)

friend Ken, WD4CNS were involved in the Andrews/Robbinsville repeater from the time it went on the air. Ken's dad was the sponsor and financier and Eddie and Ken did all of the maintenance. Eddie became the sponsor in 1985 and continues to maintain the repeater today.

After high school, Eddie went to Western Carolina University in Cullowee where he studied manufacturing engineering. The only hamming that Eddie had time to do while he was in college was mostly vhf mobile. He continued to be involved in the repeater maintenance.

Eddie also spent a year in graduate school. Through out his collegiate career, Eddie was a member of a volunteer Fire Department.

While he was in graduate school, Eddie got wind of job that sounded right down his alley and wound up moving to Atlanta. He continues to be employed by Industrial Risk Insurers as a loss prevention representative. He is married to Geri Ann. *(He looks like a newly wed to me since he was married in 1993)*

Eddie's current HF station is a Kenwood TS-440 and G5RV antenna and various pieces of junk. He is currently involved in APRS (automatic position reporting system combining HF vhf, GPS, computers, packet radio.) There is no formal organization promoting this discipline but is an informal association of amateurs with similar interests. There are both vhf and HF nets dealing with this subject.

An interesting note of longevity is that Eddie recently completed a complete refurbishing of his dad's HW-101 that was in service while he was in high school. His dad continues to be active on the HF bands with this indestructible piece of ham gear.

As a member of **GARS** for the last couple of years, Eddie has been assisting heavily in maintaining the **GARS** repeater system and planning for future enhancements. He also does some photography work with a Nikon F-3.

Future activities that Eddie is looking forward to include kayaking through Glacier Bay in Alaska. Eddie continues to be active in Appalachian trail maintenance with the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club.

WORK GARS

REPEATERS

2-Meter FM repeater 147.075 MHz +600
70-cm FM 444.525 MHz acc. tone-156.7

TELEPHONE BBS

GARS Conference in Sci-Atl BBS 806-7372

6-METER BEACON

WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at 50.075 MHz

PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET

Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the
GARS Repeater. 147.075 MHz

MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on the **GARS** repeater, and on Thursdays at 9:00PM.

GARS GROWS GREATLY BY GOLLY!

by Jack Herndon, KS4LS

Six new members were voted in at the July meeting!

Moe Wheatley, AE4JY
Paul Ahls, KE4BML
David Schulte, KE4WSJ
Bob Langford, WW4K
Janice Langford, N4LEG
Herb Schall, KB4BBH

Welcome these new members at the next club meeting or on the air! -ED ♦

Eddie is a great example of a versatile Amateur Radio operator with a variety of interests. He is also a great example of the kind of members that **GARS** continues to attract and benefit from. If you have not met Eddie, look him up at one of the **GARS** functions and thank him for his help in keeping the **GARS** repeater system on the air. ♦

(Ray, continued from p.1)

These are my Elmers. They all ran high power, as did I, to combat the noise and foreign broadcast that is 40 meters at night in the summer, and to be heard by the whole group, which was scattered all over the country.

One night, when bad propagation was keeping me from hearing about half of the group, I asked a group member to follow me to another frequency for a chat. When we finished, a stranger called me. "KN4MK" (my old call) "This is KB8VZ;" he called in the time honored way our group accepts visitors.

He was not loud by any stretch of the imagination, but I could hear him well. He introduced himself as Ray, from a little town in the middle of Michigan.

He said he was retired, and that he listened to our group every night. In fact, he had been listening to them since before I had been licensed! Soon, through his comments, I realized he had followed my growth and tutoring by the group for the entire time I had been on the air!

When I asked why he had never joined in, he said he only had 100 watt capability, and so knew he could never be heard by a large portion of the group. Rather than risk making a nuisance of himself, he chose to listen instead. I invited him to join in - at least on the slow nights when everybody might hear him. He said he would, but he didn't.

A few weeks later, we finished our roundtable around 2 A.M. one night, and I heard Ray call me as I signed off. We started talking, and a couple of regulars jumped in to meet him, too. Before you know it, Ray became "Ray-Two" (since the group already had a "Ray") and he was a regular. He didn't talk much during regular roundtable hours, but he always responded when called. Many nights I would call him after the roundtable closed and we would have "QRP" (100 watt) chats.

He didn't volunteer much, but over time I learned a lot about "Ray Two". Life had not always been kind to him. He

didn't have an amplifier, because money was tight.

You see, not long after retiring as a tool-and-die maker in Detroit, his health started to fail. Medical bills chewed away at his savings, then one day his house burned to the ground! In order to make ends meet, since the house was paid for - he had previously dropped his insurance!

He sold the house lot, bought a small trailer in the country in Michigan where the cost of living was a little cheaper, and lived on his Social Security income. This offered no budget for ham equipment, but he managed to find an old Heathkit rig for a song from a local

When Heathkit decided to get out of the ham business, they had a close out on their single-tube amplifiers. This was his chance. He drove over to the Heath factory and picked up a brand-new amplifier for about \$350. "Ray Two" was finally able to put out a big enough signal to be heard by the whole group, and be heard he did!

Then a year or so later, we stopped hearing from "Ray-Two". We had a hard time finding out what was wrong since he had no telephone in his trailer. Finally, his wife responded to a letter; "Ray-Two" was dead, finally succumbing to the health problems that had been plaguing him for years.

I lost a friend, Amateur Radio lost a ham, and the world lost a gentleman when "Ray-Two" went. ♦

(Prez, continued from p.1)

fest shine. We kept the crowds moving, and I think anyone who passed through was sure to remember the name GARS. Are you all ready for the next one?

For those of you who missed the last meeting Steve, KB4ZTN gave a fine program on digital radio which was enjoyed by all. We also announced the fact that the Snellville link site has become a nightmare of security problems so much so that I have made the decision to stop all forward motion there until we can establish a solid security plan. We must now concentrate our efforts on the Buford and Jimmy Carter water tank sites. Thanks must go to the assistance given to us by Ben, NK0X who has been a Godsend in providing us access to the sites - and other related

matters. There is a lot more to do at these sites than at Snellville but I am confident that we can do it. Plus we will have good security for our equipment.

I also checked out a possible meeting place that Duane, KD4KCR had given me, but found it inadequate to hold the crowd that we produce. Thanks, Duane.

We are now certified with the ARRL as a Special Services Club for another year. Yes, we have to get re-certified each year, and that is the responsibility

(Prez continued on p.4)

GARS Find-A-Word

by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Y V X A W P T K M T O J M L M
N D F Q 4 D K B A L E I W O H
N E M S N V A A H L A R R I F
U U T E V O 4 K G D R S I J M
F S S T F L K G S O E M C V O
Y M T I O E K D O C O Y N C B
R X E L Y N F K O G U G K F I
E I K L A T I D N A H 4 C P L
V T C E R E E G A R Z E T T E
T U A T R E L A H S U K T T J
O A P A L R D N L T H E K M Q
N C D S N R D R Q L E H L A M
P I R E P E A T E R H K O K O
O W A 4 Q Y Y H Y U H O M P R
T Y F Y W U E U V H R Q K C P

ARRL	KE4GYM	NOT VERY FUNNY
FIELD DAY	MORSE CODE	ROOKIE RADIO
GARS	NET TONIGHT	REPEATER
HAM	HANDITALKIE	GARZETTE
PACKET	W4NVF	SATELLITE
HOWIE LAB	HFMOBILE	KA4KKF
KD4QFD	VOLUNTEER	WA4QYY

ham, and built a dipole to get back on the air. Then he found our group.

I remember one night I gave Ray some "for sale" information for his area I had received from packet. He told me to wait a minute, while he turned on a light. His rig was in the bedroom where his wife was sleeping. I guess his trailer was so small, it was the only place he had to put it. So he always worked us in the dark, with headphones on and whispering into the microphone so to not wake his wife.

(Prez, continued from p.3)

of the club members to keep alive. We receive many benefits from being associated with the ARRL - including rebates for all renewals to the League, along with new memberships. So anyone interested in joining the ARRL - please see us at any club meeting.

We need to stay on top of local community activities, as it is healthy for the club to participate in events for charity or otherwise. It's time to get on the move again, folks. We need to concentrate on what we can do to motivate the young people in our schools to become Amateur Radio operators. We can only do that by getting into the schools as a group, with our eagerness to help these youngsters get a hold of what it's all about.

We also need to get into the community with our radio demonstrations. Do you realize how many new members GARS has touched with these demonstrations? Look around you and see all the new members we now have and ask them if their first touch with ham radio was GARS? You're going to be surprised how many say yes.

Repeater systems have brought local Hams together in such a way that it is no longer possible to be a stranger in the community, especially so if you're just a little bit active. We are attracting more and more old-timers out of their sleep with the HF bands being as crummy as they have been.

We are hearing more and more old-timers on the machines, and lots of them have never operated a repeater system, let alone the tiny little new HT they just purchased. You hear them complaining about the little buttons they can hardly read, and most of them are amazed with

the quality being produced by these new-fangled things. Let's help them along, folks, by being open and friendly. Let's not scare them off. The GARS club is noted for their helping hand in any situation and this is one thing that makes us stand out.

We need help with the weekly net and code practice. Are there no members out there who can find the time to do either one of these activities? I can't believe that this club has only a half dozen volunteers keeping the programs activated. I keep saying that these activities will die if we don't keep them alive with volunteers. So let's rally 'round folks, and pitch in

I hope that this hobby of ours continues to be free of junk operators for the most part. We, as a club, have to do our part to see that this does not happen. If you value the right to communicate and operate anywhere you want without further restrictions, you need to practice good operating skills - so others may take a lesson or two from you. The best thing we have is courtesy and respect for each other. A friendly off-the-air chat with a known source of bad operating practices, will more than likely resolve it quickly. If not, then you can only say you tried... and the source will eventually run out of people to talk to.

The warranty on the Mark 4 repeater ran out on July 19, and we are on our own now. We got some last minute help from them, and I have a feeling that they will be there when we need them for any serious problems. The machine is running good and appears to be doing what it was meant to do. The backup machine is now a full blown GE Master 2 with the RC-85 controller interfaced. This

releases some equipment to be used elsewhere. We have lost the 440 link frequencies due to not being used and the shifting around by SERA of link frequencies for ATV use. This means that we have to find some new link frequencies.

I went to the ARC meeting with Johnny, W4WKP to see how they were going to resolve the motion of disbanding the club, put to the floor last month. They handled it quite well, and it seems that there is still a strong gathering that would not like to see the club dissolve. An election was held, and they have a good slate of officers for next year.

Before they left, a motion was made by Russ, WA4UKP to have their president John Talipsky, KI4Y appoint a committee of 3 to 5, to sit with a committee from GARS to discuss how the two clubs can help each other. I approved this and it passed with only one member opposing.

Nothing in the motion implies a merger of the two clubs, and no restrictions were included in the motion as to what we could or could not discuss. It is no different than asking the Alford club to join us for a picnic - which had to be approved by the Alford membership. It will be interesting to see what ideas are formed by the two committees and what benefits can be derived from the discussions.

I hope to see a good portion of you at the next club meeting. Our program will be on weather satellites. We find our meetings no longer time consuming or boring, and the dinner before the meeting is just the thing for social discussions with your neighbor.

73, Howie W4NVF

A Not Very Funny Production ♦

Contact GARS

OFFICERS 1995-1996

President: W4NVF Howard Gould 921-8362
Vice Pres: KD4QFD Larry Osborne 381-5611
Secretary: KE4GYM Ike Chapman 339-8123
Treasurer: WA4QYY Charles Evans 448-0930
Activities: KA4KKF David Adcock 963-5767

COMMITTEES

Editor: AD4OD Dean Matthews 962-8941
Trustee: KO4ZS Paul Bennett 206-0215
Awards: AD4MI Charles Robison 923-3610

COMMITTEES, cont'd

Repeater:
 W4NVF Howard Gould 921-8362
Control Operators:
 KD4QFD Larry Osborne 381-5611
 KS4LS Jack Herndon 995-0438
 AD4PZ Joe Biddle 963-4316
 KE4GYM Ike Chapman 339-9231
 KD4KCR Duane Hansen 962-6086
 W4NVF Howie Gould 921-8362
 KA4EMV Bob DeVeau 923-3963
 K4HRB Ron Davidson 466-4932
Membership:
 KS4LS Jack Herndon 995-0438

Publicity:
 AD4PZ Joe Biddle 963-4316
 W4WKP Johnny Fearon 466-4038
Rookie Radio: / (ext. 354)
 AE4HN Cheryl McClure 263-0515
Field Day:
 AE4CQ Vincent Hrabosky 246-9630
Ham Classes:
 KA9UIE Steve Idler 513-0428
HF/VHF/UHF Awards Manager:
 KE4GGP Don Ennest 923-4851
DXCC Awards Checker:
 AF4Y Frank Deak 978-6546

Rookie Radio Notes

by Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

HowieLab-II is still on hold. This could take a while folks! I spoke with an engineer at Ten-Tec about the release date for their 2 meter radio kits and he said it would be AT LEAST two months. From the tone in his voice I think it may be a lot longer.

I'm sure they will have a good product when they do finally release it, but I'm not sure the class members really want to wait that long.

Whenever the radios are released, I will check with Howie (W4NVF) and see if he is still ready to teach the class. Those who are on my class roster and waiting list will get first shot at it. In the meantime, maybe we should consider the HF QRP kits I mentioned last month in this column.

One class member called me and voted to go with those kits. I will check with Howie and on the kit prices and see what we can put together.

Rookies, don't forget the CW Practice every Tuesday night at 9 PM on the GARS repeater. There has been good participation lately.

Also, I believe a code class courtesy of Duane, KD4KCR, will be starting up this fall. Stay tuned for details. Join us and get that upgrade.

If you are interested in packet radio, tune in to the Packet Radio Users Net (or the PRUNE net) on Wednesday nights at 8 PM. John, KD6CLO, and other participants will answer your questions about what packet is and how to get started.

And for emergency preparedness, you can't beat the ARES net Sunday nights at 8 PM.

Such opportunities!
What a club!

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society Monthly Meeting Minutes July 20th, 1995

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Treasurer Charles Evans, WA4QYY; Activities Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF

The meeting was called to order at 19:06 President Gould at Captain Billy's Seafood House in Duluth.

All members and visitors were invited to introduce themselves, with a total of 49 people signing the meeting log.

The minutes for the June meeting were accepted as published in the July GARZETTE.

The treasurer's report was given by Charles Evans, WA4QYY and accepted as read.

Vince Hrabosky, AE4CQ gave a report on Field Day 1995 and read a letter written to the Gwinnett Parks and Recreation Department as a thank you for the Lawrenceville site. All members in attendance were asked to sign the letter.

Vince also read a letter to Toshie, AD4ZZ thanking him for his support of GARS during his stay here and asked that all members in attendance sign that letter as well. (Copies of both letters have been placed in the club archives- sec.)

David Adcock, KA4KKF reported on club activities and thanked all those that had participated in working security for the ARC hamfest. Ike Chapman, KE4GYM also thanked everyone for their support in working this event. David reminded everyone of the upcoming GARS/Alford picnic at Fort Yargo State Park on July 22.

Charles Robison, AD4MI had GARS Challenge certificates for Pickett Cummins, AD4S for completion of the VHF 35 Challenge and the Not GARS Challenge.

Howie Gould, W4NVF asked for volunteers to serve as VE's for the GARS VE team and made applications available to anyone interested.

President Gould announced the formation of three new committees and had the secretary read the duties for each committee. Volunteers were named to staff the committees as follows:

Christmas Committee: Cathy Baker, KE4YWF; Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW; Bob Snipes, KS4EP; Diana Diggs; Mary Ann Flack, KE4AXE

Food Committee: David Adcock, KA4KKF; Sid Weaver, KR4XW; Dwight Bronnun, KE4OWF; David Feinstein, KO4OH; Ray Kaplar, KA4GKL

Field Day Committee: Dean Matthews, AD4OD; Don Button, AJ1T; Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Duane Hanson, KD4KCR; Junior O'Kelly, KE4VWN; Joe Biddle, AD4PZ.

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD presented the club with an aluminum sign made by David Neidlinger, KE4REB to be mounted on the portable tower.

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM presented six applications for club membership, a motion was made and seconded to accept all applications as presented. The motion was passed without opposition. The new GARS members are: Moe Wheatley, AE4JY; Paul Ahls, KE4BML; David Schulte, KE4WSJ; Bob Langford, WW4K; Janice Langford, N4LEG; and Herb Schall, KB4BBH. Ike also introduced David Feinstein, KO4OH and Ronnie Julian, KD4IXR who were voted in as GARS members at Field Day 1995.

The secretary gave a report on the executive committee's action regarding opening discussions with the Atlanta Radio Club on a possible merger of the two clubs.

David Adcock, KA4KKF introduced Steve Diggs, KB4ZTN who gave the program on Digital Radio.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:15 local time.

QUA

CW, MODE OF CHOICE PART 1

by Duane Hanson, KD4KCR

1st Tuesday,

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers
Old Hickory House 5490 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd. in Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. TI-145.41-

1st Wednesday - HamWatch

Shoney's 11690 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell (about 2 1/2 miles North of Holcomb Bridge Rd across from North Fulton Hospital) Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting is at 7:30 PM

1st Thursday

N.E. Georgia Amateur Radio Club
Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. TI-147.225+

1st Thursday - Atlanta Radio Club

Kitteredge Magnet School, North Druid Hills Rd. and Briarcliff. 6:00PM. Meeting is at 7:30PM TI-146.82-

2nd Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Cherokee Cattle Company, 11208 Alpharetta Hwy. Dinner at 6:00PM. Meeting at 7:30PM TI-145.47-

2nd Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. TI-146.76-

2nd Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. TI-145.41-

3rd THURSDAY

Capt. Billy's Seafood, west of the mall on Pleasant Hill Rd. Fellowship buffet from 5:00PM to 7:00PM, meeting from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. TI-147.075+ ♦

This is the first installment of a 4 part series on CW, intended to introduce you to, and to help you feel more comfortable using the CW portion of the bands.- ED

CW - A little History

Samuel Finley Breese Morse (b. Charleston, Mass., Apr. 27, 1791, d. Apr. 2, 1872 - ED) invented a land-based *printing* telegraph, driven by an electromagnet device in about 1837. To transfer information, he soon also invented the *Morse Code*, whereby letters of the alphabet could be represented with a series of dots and dashes. With the help of his colleague, Alfred Vail, he developed an audible buzzer, driven by the clicking armature of this printing telegraph..

When radio telegraphy was introduced in 1897 using spark gap transmitters, Morse code was again employed. The duration of the spark was determined the length of a dit or dah. It did not come out as a tone but rather as a hiss or buzz. This (spark/buzz) consumed a tremendous amount of frequency spectrum when in use.

Spark gave way to AM CW. This created a more pleasant tone to listen to, and a much narrower bandwidth. Modern CW consumes little more than 3 kHz of spectrum per contact!

Today's transceivers modulate a carrier with a 700 Hz tone, filtering out the carrier and opposite sideband. This

simplifies transceiver design, while producing CW that conforms to the same standards as the AM method.

CW is sent in short and long bursts in such a way that the combination of dits and dahs, as they are called, can be translated back into meaningful characters (Morse Code). Using a "narrow" receiver filter, one can listen to a segment of the band only 250 Hz (or less) wide and still hear the tone quite clearly.

CW operators are very much a driving force in Amateur Radio and can be heard on all the amateur bands with this mode being the mode of choice for many DX (long distant, overseas) operators. CW is not at all hard to learn but it is something that will challenge your thinking of communications. I have truly grown to appreciate the mode itself, and the operators I have met operating CW.

If you have a hankering for long distant communications, all you have to do is learn about 40 unique characters, at the snail's pace of 5 words per minute, and you can get on several of the great DX bands.

A whole world of HF frequencies open up to you, 10, 15, 40 and 80 meters are yours to explore with the Novice or Tech-Plus ticket. In two or three years 10 Meters will open up regularly again and there is no better DX band when it is open. Even now, some evenings I hear many stations jump on this band when it opens for short periods of time and it's -

7/95

(CW, continued on p.7)

REFURBISHED/NEW TEST EQUIPMENT

- Hewlett-Packard
- Tektronics
- Fluke
- Sorensen
- Wavetronic
- Lambda

David E. Gile Jr., KG5TX

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(CW, continued from p.6)

just like a "box-o-choklits" - you never know what you're going to get!

Getting Started Operating

Much of what you hear when operating CW is just abbreviated English. Many words have been shortened to save time (CW at it's fastest is still about one third our normal conversation speed) but these abbreviations are easily memorized and it will be no time at all before you will have them all down pat.

Operation on the CW bands is much like any other mode. The key to it is listening, listening and more listening. Listen to learn, listen to enjoy, listen to know the in's and out's of operating.

If you are just getting on the air for the first time, spend a lot of time listening as you can learn more that way than all the words I can put down on paper.

Before initiating your first contact, do some preparation. First and foremost, make a "Cheat Sheet" to prepare you for your contacts. It is much easier to have all this written down beforehand as it is hard to think and send at the same time. You will have one less thing to think about and you will begin with good CW habits.

When you are ready for your first contact, try answering another stations' CQ. This is the easiest because you can get his callsign right before you start the contact. A "Cheat Sheet" form like the one on this page will help you when getting started. Make copies of this form to fill in as you make the contacts.

You get the idea. The checkboxes let you keep track of what you have talked about, and let you concentrate on you sending and receiving.

Until you get comfortable, keep a Morse Code, Q-Code, and CW abbreviation chart handy. It is hard to tell a guy to slow down, and not sound inept, if you can't remember the standard shorthand for slow down!

Next month, calling CQ, and more operating tricks for CW. ♦

CW "Cheat Sheet"

His Callsign _____ DE *yourcallsign* KN

His Callsign

[] UR RST ES

His RST

Readability

Signal Strength

Tone

[] NAME HR ES *yourname*

[] ES QTH ES *yourcity, yourstate*

HW? AR _____ DE *yourcallsign* KN

[] WX HR ES *yourweather*

[] AGE ES *yourage*

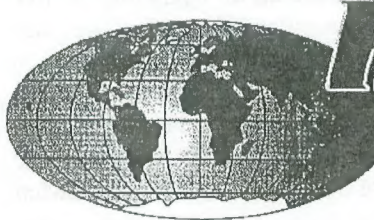
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[] WORK AS A *yourjob*

[] RIG ES *yourrig*

[] ANT ES *yourantenna*

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6 METERS... HF OR VHF? THAT IS THE QUESTION

by Jud Whatley, W4NZJ

All my ham days, I have always felt that there is no definite and determined separation or distinction between HF and VHF. It's like the seasons of the year... there is a slow change or merging of the parts. In other words, 6 meters is like Fall or Spring in that it is a link between Summer and Winter.

However, my experience with 6 meters indicates that it is more HF than VHF, and now I feel that the amateur business is sort of agreeing since many newer rigs are now including 6 meters on typically HF rigs.

6 meters is a grand band which has much to offer experienced and beginners alike. When the sunspot cycle is good or improving, this band is almost identical to 10 meters. Distant stations running as low as 10 watts roar in with tremendously strong signals. Foreign countries all over the world can be heard. On the other hand, when the sunspot cycle is slow or dead, 6 meters has GREAT ground wave... much like two (2) meters but not much skip activity like 10 which is normally dead also. One advantage 6 has over 10 during these bleak times is Sporadic-E skips which are very temporary and ever changing... again, like 2 meters. One minute you're hearing Wisconsin rolling in 25 dB over S-9 and suddenly the station(s) disappear! These cloud-like sporadic E conditions are normally seasonally related. So... why isn't 6 meters more popular and/or active?

Two basic reasons: First, years ago during the AM days, 6 meters rigs were notorious for interfering with channel 2 TV - but that has changed with improved filtering and shielding, but the biggest possible reason maybe the change from AM to SSB mode.

Second, until recently the Amateur Radio manufacturers just did not make many 6 meter rigs for general use. Like I

mentioned earlier, this is NOW changing. Amateur Radio manufacturers see a gold mine with 6 meters being rediscovered by experienced Hams and especially by No-Coders who cannot operate the HF bands. I recently purchased an ICOM 736 which includes HF plus 6 meters. Such a rig is perfect for those Technicians gearing up for upgrading. It, like other now popular HF rigs, has the "best of both worlds" and it provides them a taste of what to expect on the HF bands by exposing them to 6 meters. In conclusion, after many years of promoting the virtues of 6 meters, I now feel somewhat vindicated since Amateur Radio manufacturers are now recognizing the vast potential offered by this huge and largely empty band.

So, come join many of us - rag chewing on about 50.125 SSB, or chasing some rare Grid Squares!

Try it... you'll like it! ♦

3-96

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ARRL Bulletin 73
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT July 25, 1995
To all radio amateurs

New RFI book from the FCC

The Federal Communications Commission has released a new Interference Handbook for consumers. The 24-page, full color book will be stocked by FCC field offices around the country to provide people experiencing interference to home electronic equipment with information and solutions to interference problems.

The book deals not only with interference to televisions from radio transmitters, but also illustrates and describes interference caused by poor antennas (weak signals, ghosting); electrical interference from home devices such as hair dryers; electrical interference from power lines; and interference from home computers and low power radio devices such as garage door openers.

In addition to interference to televisions, the handbook describes solutions to interference to hi-fi systems, telephones, and video cassette recorders. Techniques for solving problems include the use of ferrite cores, improving receiving antenna systems, checking cabling, and isolating interconnected units to find the one that is at fault.

The book lists addresses and phone numbers for sources of high pass filters, common mode filters, band reject filters, ferrites and beads, ac line filters, telephone filters, and interference resistant telephones, as well as an extensive list of manufacturers of home electronic equipment.

Page one of the new FCC Interference Handbook says "Many interference problems are the direct result of poor equipment installation. Cost-cutting manufacturing techniques, such as insufficient shielding or inadequate filtering, may also cause your equipment to react to a nearby radio transmitter. This is not the fault of the transmitter and little can be done to the transmitter to correct the problem. If a correction cannot be made at the transmitter, actions must be taken to stop your equipment from reacting to the transmitter."

ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV, says, "This is the statement from the FCC that hams have been waiting for. The book takes a fair and honest approach to explaining responsibilities and cures for interference problems. The FCC team that put this together has done a fine job with a complex technical and emotional subject." ♦

How Much Does A Free Tower Cost?

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

You could have knocked me over with a feather! An old ham buddy, who I knew was moving away, calls me up out of the clear blue and says: "How would you like a tower... for free? Just come over in a few days and get it!" I was beside myself with glee.

The next few days were intolerable. I just knew he would have a change of heart, or somebody would learn of it and offer "good money" for it, or a tornado would whoosh it away. But my friend was not the type to fail his word, and when I got there, it was there... in all its glory.

It is a war surplus portable tilt-up tower, originally built to be up to 90 feet tall, but due to local ordinances I would settle for 50 feet. The parts included two top sections that hold a rotator, and a special tilt-up base that - with the aid of a couple extra tower sections - makes the unit self erecting. It was all rusty and needed a lot of work, but I happily hauled it off. He even gave me a (vintage 1960's) Hornet HF tri-band beam to put up on it. I was all set.

I always knew I would have a tower one day. It was a given... hams have towers. But for some reason I had not begun to prepare myself for it by buying things

like rotators and cable at any of the hamfests I had been to. I hadn't even looked at rotators and beam specs., they seemed so far in the future. When I saw how much a new mid-range rotator went for now, I almost passed out. "New is definitely out!" - I thought. So at the next hamfest I found a "good used/rebuilt" one for about \$150.00. I went to the Wireman at the hamfest for guy wire, all the little hardware parts for the guy wire, rotator cable and a plug to disconnect the rotator cable where it comes into the house. The Wireman relieved me of \$200.00 and I came back home ready to start work on the structure. I spent \$20.00 in gas that day.

The first hardware trip yielded wire brushes for my drill and hands, sandpaper, a gallon of Rustoleum paint, a small foam roller and pan, and a magic chemical that promised to convert rust to primer. Another \$50.00 easily slipped through my fingers here.

In the repair process some welding became needed, and my supply of small rods was quite low - so more had to be procured, along with some more jig saw blades and a small grinding stone... in other words, another \$30.00 went bye-bye. After buying a pile of snap rings and stainless cotter pins (\$10.00) to repair the attachment clamps for the portable, pin together tower... it became obvious that they were not going to work, and some large bolts were needed to replace them (\$15.00).

The antenna needed new stainless bolts here and there, along with a sack full of stainless hose clamps. (\$28.00) An ingenious thrust bearing design required some pipe and fittings, more stainless screws and some washers. (\$22.00)

Realizing I had nothing to secure the guy-wires to, I went on a last minute search of suitable screw anchors. The Wireman had warned me to avoid mobile home anchors, as they are not load rated. Finally, in a little hardware out in the country I found some four-footers, that looked like they had been there since the "dust bowl" days, judging by the amount of dust on them. It was the deal of-the-day to escape there for \$50.00. Another tank of gas applied to the project too, \$20.00.

Of course, a new tower means moving my other antennas to the top of it - so scratch off \$120.00 for two runs of 9913 and \$70.00 for a run of RG-213 for the HF beam. Also gone, \$40.00 for all the connectors and bulkhead fittings to make all that happen. I would tilt it with a heavy come-along, which needed \$25.00 worth of new cable for safety's sake.

Finally the day came to erect the tower and antennas. A last minute run to the local hardware yielded some more necessary cable hardware and clamps. \$15.00

Now, I am not complaining. Everything I bought will transfer over to a new Rohn tower if upgrading becomes necessary. The purpose of this article was to warn other tower-neophytes of the miscellaneous costs incurred with such a project. If you have had your calculator by your side while reading along, you know that my free tower project cost me a total of \$865.00 - and I didn't buy any antennas - and I settled for a used rotator! What should I figure my time was worth?

I always knew I would one day have a tower... but maybe next time a brand new free-standing unit would be cheaper.

12/95

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HURRICANE SEASON FREQUENCIES

Here are some of the major net and emergency frequencies of interest during the summer/fall hurricane season.

3815 Inter-Island 75 meter net
7165 Antigua/ Antilles Net
14275 Amateur Radio/Red Cross
14283 Caribus Net
14283 Health and welfare traffic
14303 Health and welfare traffic
14316 Maritime Mobile Net
14325 Hurricane Watch Net
21310 Health and welfare (Spanish)
14185 Caribbean Emergency
7115 Caribbean Maritime Mobile (1200Z)
3808 Caribbean Weather (1030Z)
21390 Health and welfare traffic
21400 Transatlantic Maritime Mobile
7268 Waterways

The ARRL net directory lists many state and regional nets that also carry storm-related traffic. As always, never transmit on these nets unless you are called upon to do so.

From the ARRL Letter

Word Origin: Tantalum

New Latin, from Tantalus, mythical king condemned to stand up to his chin in water that receded whenever he stopped to drink; from its incapacity to absorb acid. ♦

PACKET NET

Don't miss the KD6CLO packet net, Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the GARS 147.075+ repeater.

Geared toward all levels of packet expertise, this net is a great place to get all your packet questions answered.

Join us for an interesting roundtable discussion on modern packet radio techniques. ♦

UPCOMING GARS MEETING PROGRAMS

by Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

There are a good many programs available to GARS in the future.

One is a program on old Amateur Radio transmitting and receiving equipment, from the 1960's, 50's and further back. The newer hams should really enjoy seeing how much different the equipment of that time was, compared to the equipment of these modern times.

Also, there is a program in the future, on the topic of QRP. Some among our membership have expressed an interest in this area of HF operation.

For this month's meeting, however, the program is on weather satellites. It will be given by Gary Bailey, WA4IOB, a member of our club. You don't see Gary at many meetings, but he is a supporter of GARS, in the best ways possible. He has given this program in the past and it was recommended to me, by Bob Deveau, KA4EMV.

I hope to see you all in attendance. Let's come and all try to bring a friend. It would be fun if we filled that meeting room up - and the challenge, once again, faces us to find a place with more space. ♦

Tigertronics to Introduce 9600 Baud Baypac Modem

Note: The following is the 7-17-95 reply to an internet message I sent to Tigertronics confirming a rumor I had heard about a new inexpensive 9600 baud TNC coming out. - ED

Hi Dean - The 9600 baud modems have been almost done for several weeks.

All we have left to do is mold the front bezel. The mold is in process but has managed to get bumped by a larger commercial job. It will probably be about three weeks before the mold is finished (as things look now).

After that we just need to drop the boards into the boxes and we will release the modems for shipment. I'm real sorry about the delay, but since it's not officially released, it seemed to be an easy target to get bumped when things got busy.

I do know what the price is now - \$96! It's packaged in an aluminum extrusion about 1" x 2-1/2" x 3-1/2" and plugs into the parallel port (not serial). It works with BayCom Version 1.6

Literature is not ready yet but should be in about the same time frame.

If you want to drop us your (internet) address, we'll notify you when it is ready.

73's John, WA6IKO (Tigertronics, Inc.) ♦

6/96

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TUNING CW

by Duane Hanson, KD4KCR

Proper tuning of CW signals is critical to making contacts. It will take some time to get a trained "ear" for the 700 Hz tone that most rigs use.

If you have a digital display on your rig that goes to the 0.0 kHz range, or indicates hundreds of Hz, then you can simply tune up the dial, on the low bands, or down the dial on the high bands till the tone of the received signal goes down to nothing (Zero Beat) and then subtract or add 700 Hz and tune to that frequency and you should be right on the 700Hz tone.

For example, I am tuning across the 80 meter band and find a fellow calling CQ about 3.650.0. I tune up the band and find zero beat at 3.650.4. Since I went up the band to find zero beat, I subtract 700 from that and find that he has his transmitter tuned to 3.649.7.

I tune until I have that on my dial, and here I can call him. He should be able to hear me even if he is using the narrowest of filters. If I am using an analog VFO it gets a little trickier. Here is where it would be handy to have a pitch pipe that emits a 700 Hz tone. I would blow on the pitch pipe and tune my dial till I was resonant with his tone.

After doing this a while I can get that tone where it is natural to me and I can do away with the pitch pipe. A good operator will not call CQ with his narrow

Stupid Packet Tricks

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

Here is a way to connect to remote TCP/IP packet BBS's using the Telnet command:

Connect to SNELLY, then send the command> IH

This returns a list of stations, some numerical.

Then Ping a station (these are Hosts, whatever that is)> PI <callsign>

It will return the number of milliseconds a round trip took, if the host is active.

Then TELNET to the station> T <callsign>

When it asks login, answer> anonymous

When it asks password, answer> <your callsign>

Then you are connected to the remote host, and can read and send mail to it. Some of the other commands there are disabled in this mode. IH works, and you can come back to snelly and Ping stations on that list to see if they can be worked. You can telnet to some of the numerical host names, but you are flying blind, you can't tell where or who they are unless you have a list.

EXAMPLE SESSION:

You Enter:	Prompt Received:
c snelly	COMMANDS ABCDE....Z?>
ih	LIST OF STATIONS
PI pc.wa4bro	Resolving... Trying... 4934 ms
T pc.wa4bro	login:
anonymous	password:
ad4od	Welcome, COMMANDS ABC....Z?>

You are in - Have fun!

filter on as he will miss a good many stations that do not have an ear for the 700 Hz tone.

Remember, a narrow CW filter can be as narrow as 250 Hz. If I am calling on 3.688.0 mHz, and someone returns my CQ at 3.688.2, I won't hear him as my filter looks as a section of band only 250

Hz wide and that is 125 Hz on either side of my operating frequency.

By the way, that is a quick and dirty way to make sure you are in the ball park when you tune in a calling station by engaging the narrow filter and tuning till you hear the station clearly. You can bet he can hear you then even if he is using his filter. ♦

Detach and Mail

GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORTER FORM)



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 Address: _____ Work-Phone: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Fax-Phone: _____

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CALLSIGN:

CLASS (circle 1)

BIRTH DATE

ARRL Y/N

LIFE?Y/N

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____/____/____

[Y] [N]

[Y] [N]

E A G T+ T N

____/____/____

[Y] [N]

[Y] [N]

E A G T+ T N

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Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226

METRO AREA TEST SESSIONS

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
Roswell ARRL-VEC St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn. Mtn. CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday - 2:30PM - N Atlanta ARRL/VEC - Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142
Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday **GARS** W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Aug	13	Hamfest - Charlotte, NC
Aug	19-20	Hamfest - Huntsville, AL
Aug	26?	Hamfest - Confederate Sig Corps, Madison, GA
Sep	23?	Hamfest - Gainesville, GA
Sep	23?	Hamfest - Anniston, AL

?=Date not confirmed. Several entries taken from SERA Journal.

Georgia locations are bold, Nearby locations are bold and underlined

METRO AREA NETS AND ROUNDTABLES

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	Info Want Swap & Sell GARS
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	Packet Net - GARS
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC (1st Thurs = 9:30)
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri/Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226



GARS meeting will be at CAPTAIN BILLY'S SEAFOOD, on Pleasant Hill Rd west of the Gwinnett Place Mall on the 3rd Thursday, August 17, Pre-meeting fellowship buffet starts at 5:00, meeting begins at 7:00pm.